

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 BIB-01 SAB-01 /087 W

----- 120091

R 251344Z YSEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4888

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, IS, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET MIDDLE EAST PRESS PLAY NOT YET REACTING TO
SECRETARY'S UN SPEECH

1. SUMMARY. SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA COMMENTARY
SEPTEMBER 25 CONTINUES MOSCOW'S ATTACKS ON ISRAELI
MILITARISM AND REFUSAL TO ENTER INTO MEANINGFUL
NEGOTIATIONS. IT MAKES NO MENTION OF INITIATIVES
ANNOUNCED IN THE SECRETARY'S UNGA SPEECH. END SUMMARY.

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2. P. ALEKSANDROV'S FAIRLY STANDARD POLEMIC AIMED AT ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE AND MILITARISM PROVIDES THE FIRST PRESS COMMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST FOLLOWING THE SECRETARY'S UNGA SPEECH. HE CITES PM RABIN'S COMMENTS TO ABC ON SEPTEMBER 7 AS EVIDENCE OF ISRAELI UNWILLINGNESS TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TOWARD AN OVERALL SOLUTION, AND HE CLAIMS THAT "STEP-BY-STEP" IS A MEANS BY WHICH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT CAN "SABOTAGE" THE UNSC MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTIONS.

3. ALEKSANDROV MAKES THE EXPECTED CRITIQUE OF SINAI II AND USES GEORGE BALL'S ARTICLE IN NEWSWEEK TO SUBSTANTIATE THE SOVIET POSITION THAT THE RECENT ACCORD "FREEZES" THE STILL EXPLOSIVE SITUATION. ALEKSANDROV REITERATES MOSCOW'S FORMULA THAT THE ONLY BASIS FOR A TRUE SETTLEMENT IS ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO THEIR OWN NATIONAL STATE.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE PRESS COMMENT SINCE THE UN SPEECHES, AND ALEKSANDROV'S SILENCE CONCERNING THE SECRETARY'S NEGOTIATING INITIATIVE COULD SIMPLY MEAN THAT THE PROPAGANDA BUREAUCRACY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED THE OFFICIAL LINE. ALEKSANDROV ALSO MAKES NO MENTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, ALTHOUGH HE REFERS TO IT INDIRECTLY IN STATEMENT THAT SOVIET POSITION ON THE ME WAS EXPLAINED IN GROMYKO'S UN SPEECH.
MATLOCK

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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